# Manitoba Firearm Accidents Report

## Hunting and Non-Hunting 1991

Hunter and Firearm Safety Program

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Municipal Police Forces requiring additional accident report forms please write to the Coordinator, Hunter and Firearm Safety Program, Box 44, 1495 St. James St., Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3H 0W9, or phone 945-6644.

## SUMMARY

During the 1991 calendar year there were 19 firearm related accidents reported, compared to 22 in 1990. Eleven of these accidents were self-inflicted. There were two fatal accidents, one hunting related. Five of the accidents involved shooters under 18 years of age, the same number as the previous year.

Nine of the nineteen accidents were not directly related to hunting. Of the ten remaining accidents, six involved shooters hunting legally during the regular season, two by treaty Indians and two by shooters hunting small game (rabbits, birds, etc.)

Sixteen of the nineteen reported accidents occurred at a distance of less than ten yards. There were no firearm accidents that occurred due to having a loaded firearm in a vehicle. One of the nineteen accidents involved a graduate of the Hunter Safety Program.

The Manitoba Hunter Safety Course was completed by 2465 students in 1991. Some 114,230 students have now graduated from the program since it began in 1964. Of this total, only 136 have later become involved in accidents.

## CAUSE OF ACCIDENTS

| | 1990 | 1991 |
|---|---|---|
| Victim out of sight of shooter. | 4 | 0 |
| Victim moved into line of fire. | 0 | 1 |
| Victim covered by shooter swinging on game. | 0 | 1 |
| Victim mistaken for game. | 0 | 1 |
| Shooter stumbled and fell. | 4 | 3 |
| Using firearm as club. | 1 | 0 |
| Trigger caught on bush or other object. | 3 | 0 |
| Loaded firearm in vehicle. | 0 | 0 |
| Firearm fell from insecure rest. | 1 | 2 |
| "Horseplay" and/or "didn't know it was loaded". | 3 | 2 |
| Crossing fence or other obstacle with loaded firearm. | 0 | 1 |
| Loading. | 0 | 0 |
| Unloading. | 0 | 1 |
| Defective firearm | 2 | 2 |
| Cleaning firearm | 0 | 0 |
| Loaded firearm in the home. | 2 | 0 |
| Accidental discharge. | 0 | 1 |
| Ricochet. | 2 | 0 |
| Other | 0 | 4 |
| Total | 22 | 19 |

Average firearm accidents per year in 5 year increments since Hunter Safety Program commenced.

| | |
|---|---|
| 1964-1968 | 44.2 |
| 1969-1973 | 56.0 |
| 1974-1978 | 53.6 |
| 1979-1983 | 42.8 |
| 1984-1988 | 26.4 |
| 1989-1991 | 22.7 |

## SYNOPSIS OF 1991 FIREARM ACCIDENTS

| | 1990 | 1991 |
|---|---|---|
| **A. Total Number of Accidents** | 22 | 19 |
| Fatal | 3 | 2 |
| Non-fatal | 19 | 17 |
| **B. 1) Hunting Legally During Regular Season** | 6 | 8 |
| Fatal | 0 | 1 |
| Non-fatal | 6 | 7 |
| **2) Treaty Indian Hunting** | 3 | 2 |
| Fatal | 0 | 0 |
| Non-fatal | 3 | 2 |
| **3) Hunting Small Animals, Birds, or Illegal Hunting** | 3 | 2 |
| Fatal | 0 | 0 |
| Non-fatal | 3 | 2 |
| **4) Non-hunting Accidents** | 10 | 7 |
| Fatal in the home | 2 | 0 |
| Fatal in a vehicle | 0 | 0 |
| Fatal outside home | 1 | 1 |
| Non-fatal in the home | 2 | 0 |
| Non-fatal in a vehicle | 0 | 0 |
| Non-fatal outside the home | 5 | 6 |
| **C. Shooter Unknown** | 0 | 1 |
| Fatal | 0 | 0 |
| Non-fatal | 0 | 1 |
| **D. Accidents Involving Shooter under 18 years of age** | 5 | 5 |
| **All Types of Hunting** | 1 | 2 |
| Fatal | 0 | 0 |
| Non-fatal | 1 | 2 |
| **Non-hunting** | 4 | 5 |
| Fatal | 1 | 0 |
| Non-fatal | 3 | 3 |

## TYPE OF FIREARM INVOLVED

| | 1990 | 1991 |
|---|---|---|
| **A. .22 calibre Rim Fire Rifle** | **12** | **10** |
| Fatal | 3 | 0 |
| Non-fatal | 9 | 10 |
| **B. Centre Fire Hi Power Rifle** | **2** | **1** |
| Fatal | 0 | 1 |
| Non-fatal | 2 | 0 |
| **C. Shotgun** | **6** | **8** |
| Fatal | 0 | 1 |
| Non-fatal | 6 | 7 |
| **D. Hand Gun** | **0** | **0** |
| Fatal | 0 | 0 |
| Non-fatal | 0 | 0 |
| **E. Pellet Gun** | **1** | **0** |
| Fatal | 0 | 0 |
| Non-fatal | 1 | 0 |
| **F. Unknown/Other** | **1** | **0** |
| Fatal | 0 | 0 |
| Non-fatal | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 22 | 19 |

## DISTANCE OF VICTIM FROM SHOOTER

| | 1990 | 1991 |
|---|---|---|
| 0 to 10 yards | 17 | 16 |
| 10 to 50 yards | 3 | 3 |
| 50 to 100 yards | 0 | 0 |
| over 100 yards | 0 | 0 |
| Distance Unknown | 2 | 0 |

## OCCURRENCES

| Time of Day | 1990 | 1991 |
|---|---|---|
| Midnight - 3:00 a.m. | 0 | 0 |
| 3:00 a.m. - 6:00 a.m. | 0 | 1 |
| 6:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. | 1 | 1 |
| 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon | 3 | 3 |
| 12:00 noon - 3:00 p.m. | 6 | 4 |
| 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. | 6 | 3 |
| 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. | 6 | 5 |
| 9:00 p.m. - 12:00 midnight | 0 | 1 |
| Unknown | 0 | 1 |
| **By Day** | | |
| Sunday | 5 | 3 |
| Monday | 5 | 2 |
| Tuesday | 5 | 1 |
| Wednesday | 0 | 1 |
| Thursday | 2 | 4 |
| Friday | 4 | 5 |
| Saturday | 1 | 3 |
| **By Month** | | |
| January | 4 | 0 |
| February | 0 | 1 |
| March | 0 | 0 |
| April | 1 | 0 |
| May | 2 | 1 |
| June | 0 | 3 |
| July | 0 | 0 |
| August | 3 | 2 |
| September | 1 | 7 |
| October | 7 | 3 |
| November | 3 | 2 |
| December | 1 | 0 |

## SUMMARY OF 1991 ACCIDENTS

The following summary of accidents related to the use of firearms serves as a useful lesson for everyone who enjoys shooting sports. Hunter Safety Instructors and their students should make a special effort to study each incident and analyze how the accident occurred. In most cases, one or more of the 10 commandments of Hunter Safety were violated. Don't let you or your friends be the cause of an accident recorded in next year's report.

### THE 10 COMMANDMENTS OF HUNTER SAFETY

1. **WATCH THAT MUZZLE!** Carry your gun safely; keep safety on until ready to shoot.
2. **TREAT EVERY GUN WITH THE RESPECT DUE A LOADED GUN.**
3. **UNLOAD GUNS WHEN NOT IN USE,** take down or have actions open; guns should be carried in cases to shooting area.
4. **BE SURE BARREL IS CLEAR OF OBSTRUCTIONS,** and that you have ammunition only of the proper size for the gun you carry.
5. **BE SURE OF TARGET BEFORE YOU PULL TRIGGER;** know identifying features of game you hunt.
6. **NEVER POINT A GUN AT ANYTHING YOU DO NOT WANT TO SHOOT;** avoid all horseplay.
7. **NEVER CLIMB A TREE OR FENCE OR JUMP A DITCH WITH A LOADED GUN;** never pull a gun toward you by the muzzle.
8. **NEVER SHOOT A BULLET AT A FLAT, HARD SURFACE OR WATER;** at target practice be sure your backstop is adequate.
9. **STORE GUNS AND AMMUNITION SEPARATELY,** beyond reach of children.
10. **AVOID ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES** before or during shooting.

| DATE & TIME | AGE OF SHOOTER AGE OF VICTIM | FATAL | TYPE OF FIREARM | MUZZLE DIS-TANCE | GAME HUNTED | SHOOTER WAS A HUNTER SAFETY GRADUATE | CIRCUMSTANCES |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Thursday February 14 12:30 pm | S - 19 Self In-flicted | No | 22 cal. rifle | 0-10 yds | Rabbits | No | While standing up, he leaned forward and his finger hit the trigger resulting in a bullet in his left leg. Possibly had a defective safety. |
| Sunday May 12 9:15 pm | S - 18 Self In-flicted | No | Shotgun | 0-10 yds | Beaver | No | Shooter appeared to have picked up the gun and placed the barrel end at his foot, and without realizing a live round was in the gun he pulled the trigger. |
| Monday June 17 7:00 pm | S - 52 Self In-flicted | No | 22 cal. rifle | 0-10 yds | Non-Hunting | No | Subject was working on his car and yanked an air compressor hose causing the rifle to fall to the ground resulting in a bullet in the foot. |
| Tuesday June 18 8:49 pm | S - Dog<br>V - 32 | No | 22 cal. rifle | 0-10 yds | Non-hunting | No | After shooting four shots the victim prepared for another shot, cocked the gun, then decided to check the target board. He had previously taken a ball away from the pup and placed it on the workmate. While he was walking to the target, the dog jumped up hitting the trigger causing the gun to go off, hitting the victim in the back. |

| DATE & TIME | AGE OF SHOOTER AGE OF VICTIM | FATAL | TYPE OF FIREARM | MUZZLE DIS-TANCE | GAME HUNTED | SHOOTER WAS A HUNTER SAFETY GRADUATE | CIRCUMSTANCES |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Wednesday June 26 9:50 am | S - 17 Self In-flicted | No | 22 cal. rifle | 0-10 yds | Non-hunting | No | Incident occurred in the victim's backyard. Victim had become frustrated with the gun jamming and carelessly tossed it over his shoulder thereby unjamming it. |
| Saturday August 17 3:11 am | S - un-known V - 19 | No | 22 cal. rifle | 0-10 yds | Non-Hunting | Unknown | Victim reports that he and unidentified male were out shooting at power lines and birds. The victim had turned gun over to the other male when he felt pain in his left foot. |
| Friday August 23 Time unknown | S - 36 Self In-flicted | Yes | 12 gauge shotgun | 0-10 yds | Non-hunting | Unknown | Carrying three loaded firearms (2-12 gauge and 1-22 cal. rifle) along with a box of clay pigeons and a bag of targets and ammunition. He attempted to cross a barbwire fence. One of the 12 gauge shotguns discharged and struck him in the upper chest. |
| Thursday September 19 3:30 pm | S - 19 V - 18 | No | 22 cal. rifle | 0-10 yds | Grouse | No | Returning from hunting and walking along the wood with a loaded firearm and finger on trigger. Rifle discharged resulted in a shot to victim's foot. |

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Thursday September 19 8:00 pm | S - 6<br>V - 7 | No | 22 cal. rifle | 0-10 yds | Non-hunting | No | Playing with loaded firearm and it discharged shooting victim in cheek/neck. |
| Sunday Sept. 22 8:00 pm | S - 28<br>V - 11 | No | 12 gauge shotgun | 0-10 yds | Ducks | No | Shooter stumbled on rocks and dropped the 12 gauge shotgun. The shotgun went off, richocheted off rocks and hit victim in the stomach area. |
| Friday Sept. 27 12:30 pm | S - 60 Self In-flicted | No | 12 gauge shotgun | 0-10 yds | Grouse | Unknown | Accident occurred when shotgun fell to the ground from insecure place as a result of strong wind. The trigger caught on something causing gun to discharge. |
| Friday Sept. 27 3:30 pm | S - 14<br>V - 14 | No | 22 cal. rifle | 0-10 yds | Grouse | No | Accident occurred while unloading the rifle. |

| DATE & TIME | AGE OF SHOOTER AGE OF VICTIM | FATAL | TYPE OF FIREARM | MUZZLE DIS-TANCE | GAME HUNTED | SHOOTER WAS A HUNTER SAFETY GRADUATE | CIRCUMSTANCES |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Saturday Sept. 28 4:30 pm | S - 37<br>V - 31 | No | Shotgun | 10-50 yds | Grouse | Unknown | Accident occurred in bush area. Hunting orange not being worn. Victim covered by shooter swinging on game. Pellets to face, arm and thigh. |
| Monday Sept. 30 10:30 am | S - 31 Self In-flicted | No | 12 gauge shotgun | 0-10 yds | Geese | Unknown | Shooter stumbled and fell resulting in shot to hand. |
| Saturday October 5 8:00 am | S - 15 Self In-flicted | No | Shotgun | 0-10 yds | Birds | Yes | The victim laying on the ground waiting for the birds to come closer, when getting up to take a shot at the birds he stumbled and fell and accidentally pulled the trigger. |
| Saturday October 5 11:30 am | S - 15 Self In-flicted | No | 22 cal. rifle | 0-10 yds | Non-hunting | No | Shooter out target shooting and was resting the gun on an angle on the ground when it went off striking him in the elbow. |
| Friday October 11 7:30 pm | S - 13<br>V - 7 | No | Shotgun | 10-50 yds | Non-hunting | No | The shooter was lifting the rifle to see if it was loaded and it discharged thereby hitting the victim in the lower abdomen and legs. |

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Friday November 1 12:01 pm | S - 69<br>V - 76 | No | 22 cal. rifle | 0-10 yds | Non-hunting | No | Killing pigs and as a pig attempted to flee, the shooter raised the 22 cal. rifle to the head of the pig and discharged it as the victim kicked at the pig's head. The bullet passed through his right foot. |
| Thursday November 28 2:00 pm | S - 40<br>V - 37 | Yes | 30.06 rifle | 10-50 yds | Moose | No | Victim attempting to "run down" a wounded moose in a bluff. Shooter saw movement in bushes and shot before he could see target. |